

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
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P R 151513Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6443
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 1583

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM,UY
SUBJ: RECENT GOU SECURITY FORCE ACTIONS AGAINST AGRUPACIONES
DE MILITANTES SOCIALISTAS

REF: MONTEVIDEO 1504 (DTG 061225Z MAY 78)

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. ON 11 MAY 1978 AN OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE URUGUAYAN ARMED FORCES ANNOUNCED THE CAPTURE IN LATE MARCH OF SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE AGRUPACIONES DE MILITANTES SOCIALISTAS (AMS), A WORKER-ORIENTED GROUP WHICH HAD SPLIT FROM THE SOCIALIST PARTY IN 1972 AND WHICH HAD FORMED ITS OWN FACTION IN THE FRENTE AMPLIO. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS RELEASE, THE AMS WAS LED BY NELSON SALLE, HAD BASES OF OPERATION IN BUENOS AIRES AND MONTEVIDEO, AND COMMUNICATED REGULARLY WITH MORE INFAMOUS SUBVERSIVE GROUPS SUCH AS THE TUPAMAROS AND THE ARGENTINE MONTONEROS, PRIMARILY FOR TRAINING PURPOSES AND TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION. THE COMMUNIQUE MENTIONED ONLY THREE SPECIFIC ACTIONS OF WHICH THE AMS WAS ACCUSED: SCATTERING PAMPHLETS OVER PART OF THE CITY BY USING TWO SMALL RECKET-LIKE EXPLOSIVES (1974), POSSESSING FALSE DOCUMENTS, AND A
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ROBBERY (1975). THEY ARE ALSO ACCUSED OF ORGANIZING IN 1973 A SUB-GROUP IN THE UNIVERSITY, THE AGRUPACIONES REVOLUCIONARIAS ESTUDIANTILES. END UNCLASSIFIED

2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. EMBASSY WAS ALREADY AWARE THAT ARRESTS WERE OCCURRING IN MARCH THROUGH OUR WALK-IN PROGRAM. THE MOTHER OF JOSE ALBERICO BASILIO CRESPO HAD COME TO THE

EMBASSY TO DISCUSS THE DISAPPEARANCE OF HER SON. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS RELEASE, BASILIO CRESPO WAS AN AMS MEMBER WAS INVOLVED IN THE 1975 ROBBERY.

3. COMMENT: A SOURCE CLOSE TO ARMY CICN ALVAREZ HAS STATED THAT THIS IS AN ATTEMPT BY HARDLINERS TO MAINTAIN THE MYTH THAT URUGUAY IS STILL A SOCIETY UNDER SEIGE BY TERRORIST FORCES. ACCORDING TO DAO REPORT, THIS ACTION AGAINST THE AMS AND ITS SUBSEQUENT PUBLICATION, AS WELL AS RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS SUCH AS STHE VILARO SANGUINETTI CASE (SEE REFTEL), ARE THE WORK OF ADMIRAL MARQUEZ AND THE SEEMINGLY INTRACTABLE FUSILEROS NAVALES, WHO OPPOSE LIBERALIZATION OF URUGUAY'S CURRENT POLICE-STATE. THE ARE PURSUING THIS GOAL BY: (A) MAKING AS MUCH CAPITAL ON THE LITTLE SUBVERSION THAT EXISTS AS THEY CAN AND (B) HARDLINING ON HIGH-PROFILE CASES IN ORDER TO GENERATE INTERNATIONAL CRITICISM AND FORCE THE GOU INTO A DEFENSIVE MODE. END CONFIDENTIAL.
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